

R E M A R K S

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed October 2, 2007. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments. The claims have been amended for clarity, thereby resolving the Examiner's claim objections. Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 2, which has subsequently been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to update their dependencies. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of potential allowability of claims 2-6 if rewritten into independent form. Applicants believe that claims 2-6 are allowable for at least the reasons espoused by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawakami, U.S. Patent No. 4,192,231. Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 2, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawakami, U.S. Patent No. 4,192,231, in view of Grobman, U.S. Patent No. 3,974,768. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 2. As claims 8-11 include the elements of claim 1, they are similarly patentable. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

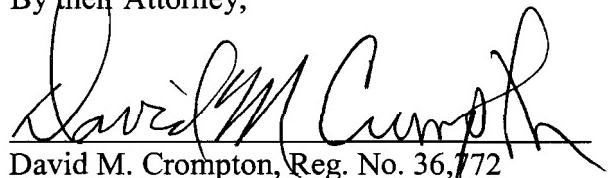
Appl. No. 10/554,809
Amdt. dated December 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2007

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Claus-Dieter Barrois et al.

By their Attorney,



David M. Crompton, Reg. No. 36,772
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2420
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349

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